

COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Steve C. Davis, Council District No. 8

A **special meeting** of the **Committee on Justice and Public Safety**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, was held on Monday, **July 23, 2012**, in the Assembly Room of the Berkeley County Administration Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:19 p.m.

PRESENT: Acting Chairman Phillip Farley, Council District No. 1; Committee Member Timothy J. Callanan, Council District No. 2; Committee Member Robert O. Call, Jr., Council District No. 3; and Committee Member Dennis L. Fish, Council District No. 5; ex-officios: Mr. Daniel W. Davis, County Supervisor, Mrs. Cathy S. Davis, Council District No. 4, Mr. Jack H. Schurlknight, Council District No. 6, and Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Council District No. 7; Ms. Nicole Scott Ewing, County Attorney; and Ms. Catherine Windham, Interim Clerk to Council. Chairman Steve C. Davis, Council District No. 8, was excused from this meeting.

Acting Chairman Farley: "Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to call the special Committee on Justice and Public Safety Meeting to order. Ms. Clerk, has this meeting properly been notified..."

Ms. Windham: "Yes, Sir, it has."

Acting Chairman Farley: "...via the Freedom of Information Act? Yes, it has."

A. Ms. Scarlett Wilson, Ninth Circuit Solicitor, Re: Addition of a Surplus Vehicle

Ms. Wilson: "Thank you; and thank you all again for approving the grant matches that we were fortunate enough to receive. We are asking now, as you will recall, we have a new investigator who will be starting as a result of the grants that we were awarded. We are asking for vehicle out of the retired fleet. It's my understanding there's a 1997 Chevrolet Blazer with 169,000 miles on it that was dead-lined off of the insurance and that we have to come before Council to see about having it put back on the insurance. It's not for the purchase of a vehicle, but just to bring it back into, I guess, the fleet."

It was moved by Committee Member Callanan and seconded by Committee Member Fish to **approve** the addition of one (1) dead-lined County surplus vehicle, a 1997 Chevrolet Blazer, back into the County fleet for use by the Solicitor's Office. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

B. Sheriff H. Wayne DeWitt, Sheriff's Office, Re: Proposed Medical Contract for the Hill-Finklea Detention Center

Sheriff DeWitt: "Thank you, Mr. Farley. I find myself in a precarious situation tonight. Mr. Fish reminded me, he said, 'you're coming too often' and for years, I've never had to come back and ask for any additional funding, and now, I find myself two times in two months. I could term this as, probably, a necessary evil. We're bound by law to provide healthcare services for the inmates at Hill-Finklea Detention Center. In the past, we've contracted with a local physician and had coverage, mainly, during daylight hours, Monday thru Friday. We did not renew the contract with him, and I understand right now that he's filed bankruptcy, so there's some serious problems there. My proposal is that we go with Southern Health Partners. They provide 24/7. I've done a little research on their history as far as services go, and they contract with 12 other detention centers in South Carolina, one being our neighboring county Dorchester. I talked with Sheriff Knight over there to find out how it worked out for him, and he said that he had no problems. What I would tell you is signing this contract, and I know it's asking for close to \$200,000.0 in addition to my approved budget as it is now, because this was kind of unexpected, but it greatly reduces our liability. It would take away correctional officers of having to dispense drugs after hours, which they shouldn't have to do. And so, the major point, the major factor with this thing is just taking the liability away from us, and it puts it on this healthcare provider. That would be, that would be my greatest selling point as far as this contract is concerned."

Committee Member Callanan: "Move for approval."

Sheriff DeWitt: "John..."

Committee Member Callanan: "Oh, I'm sorry; I thought you were done."

Sheriff DeWitt: "...John Hamer has done a lot of research and negotiating the contract, and our price is comparable to Dorchester, and they don't house as near as many inmates as what we do. So, I think we got a pretty good deal out of it."

Acting Chairman Farley: "Do I have a motion?"

Committee Member Fish: "Second."

Supervisor Daniel Davis: "And, we are going to have to designate where the additional funds are coming from, and the only place we have is Contingency."

It was moved by Committee Member Callanan and seconded by Committee Member Fish to **award** the contract providing medical services to inmates at the Hill-Finklea Detention Center to Southern Health Partners, Inc., in the amount of \$197,220.00, with funds for these services to come from Contingency.

Acting Chairman Farley: "Is there any discussion?"

Mr. Schurlknight: "Mr. Chairman?"

Acting Chairman Farley: "Yes, Sir."

Mr. Schurlknight: "What was the balance for this? How much money are we talking about?"

Sheriff DeWitt: "My figure is..."

Acting Chairman Farley: "One seventy-nine, two twenty."

Sheriff DeWitt: "...the total for the contract is like \$395,000..."

Acting Chairman Farley: "Two twenty."

Sheriff DeWitt: "...already been budgeted, like 216. So, whatever the remaining balance is."

Mr. Schurlknight: "Ok; thank you."

Ms. Ewing: "I would like to clarify that. There's actually, I think, there's been some developments since the Sheriff's been briefed on this or possibly since his paperwork's been drafted. Risk Management has suggested and recommended that the provider provide additional insurance. So, if we go with Risk Management's recommendation, the total contract cost will be \$413,220.00 for the year."

Acting Chairman Farley: "How much now?"

Ms. Ewing: "A – 413,220; and if we don't go with the recommended insurance that Risk Management has recommended, it would \$395,220. I don't know the additional numbers that the Sheriff would need, but if someone has a calculator."

Sheriff DeWitt: "I understood the insurance as being \$18,000.00."

Ms. Ewing: "Yeah, so, ok..."

Sheriff DeWitt: "It still came out to the tally I gave you – \$197,000.00 is what I'm basically asking for. That, I think, includes the insurance coverage."

Ms. Ewing: "197,220."

Acting Chairman Farley: "179,220?"

Ms. Ewing: "According to these figures, as I had to check with the calculator, it's 197,220."

Sheriff DeWitt: “Yeah.”

Ms. Ewing: “But, I’m the lawyer, not a mathematician.”

Acting Chairman Farley: “Kace.”

Ms. Kace Smith, Finance Director and Deputy Supervisor: “I just have a comment. I did want Council to know that we only have a balance in Contingency of \$191,119.00. You had \$250,000.00 that was in there as of July 1st. We’ve got the Solicitor grants, the Public Defender additional money, and the Sheriff’s of 31,744 that was approved at the last Committee Meeting. That leaves a balance of \$191,119.00.”

Committee Member Callanan: “Mr. Chairman?”

Acting Chairman Farley: “Mr. Callanan.”

Committee Member Callanan: “So that – I’m sorry; that would bring our balance to?”

Ms. Smith: “I heard directly this was 197,000, so you would have no money in Contingency.”

Committee Member Callanan: “So, this would be more than our balance in Contingency?”

Ms. Smith: “That’s correct.”

Committee Member Callanan: “Ok; so, the recommendation is to – we have to do something later on to transfer money from Fund Balance to Contingency?”

Ms. Smith: “Or if there are additional sources, revenue sources that came in.”

Committee Member Callanan: “Ok; thank you.”

Ms. Smith: “Yes, Sir; and we can look at that anytime during the fiscal year.”

Acting Chairman Farley: “Any more discussion?”

There was no further discussion.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Sheriff DeWitt: “Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”

It was moved by Committee Member Callanan and seconded by Committee Member Fish to **adjourn** the special meeting of the Committee on Justice and Public Safety. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 6:26 p.m.

August 13, 2012
Date Approved

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(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Steve C. Davis, District No. 8

Members: Mr. Phillip Farley, District No. 1
Mr. Timothy J. Callanan, District No. 2
Mr. Robert O. Call, Jr., District No. 3
Mr. Dennis Fish, District No. 5

Mrs. Cathy S. Davis, District No. 4, ex officio
Mr. Jack Schurlknight, District No. 6, ex officio
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, District No. 7, ex officio
Mr. Daniel W. Davis, Supervisor, ex officio

A **special meeting** of the **COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, will be held on **Monday, July 23, 2012** at **6:01 p.m.**, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Administration Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, South Carolina.

AGENDA

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the electronic and print media were duly notified.

- A. Ms. Scarlett Wilson, Ninth Circuit Solicitor, Re:** Addition of a Surplus Vehicle
- B. Sheriff H. Wayne DeWitt, Sheriff's Office, Re:** Proposed Medical Contract for the Hill-Finklea Detention Center.

July 18, 2012
S/Catherine R. Windham